

ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
OAHU COUNTRY CLUB
DATE: OCTOBER 30, 2018
PRESIDING: PRESIDENT ELECT PAUL SAITO

The rain didn't deter our members from venturing to Oahu Country Club, where inside, the clear skies of hope showered the meeting. **President-Elect Paul Saito** took the gavel for **President Bub Wo**, and got a feel for his upcoming place at the podium...looked like it felt good.

Susan Robinson shared the abundance of feelings and situations that make for a contented life, and her inspiration was followed by **Bob Robinson's** leading of the Pledge of Allegiance. **Al Linton** and **Sum Howard** offered a 'duet' in honor of America, and **Dawn Marie** introduced guests. PE Paul announced birthdays and **Byron Eliashof's** 18 years as a member, and **Tom Coyne** reminded us of the upcoming Maunaloa Bay Work Day and that a Paul Harris week host is still needed. While the rain fell outside, fellowship reigned inside.

I know I wasn't alone in the joy and pride I felt, listening to YWCA of Oahu CEO Noriko Namiki recall our club's participation in indoor and outdoor projects at Kokokahi, Laniakea and Fernhurst locations across Oahu...revamping living quarters, planting plants, laying pathways, sorting donations, painting tables inside and walls outside...whatever was needed.

Focusing on Fernhurst in Makiki, Namiki shared the success of the safe, transitional housing for women coming out of incarceration either in Kailua or at OCCC. Approaching parole, the women receive job training and retention instruction, GED assistance, and emotional support. Eventually they move 'upstairs' to transitional housing for up to 6 months. 70% of the women at Fernhurst are mothers, and are often visited by their kids for family events, such as our Christmas trolley ride. Kepola Dudoit is one of those who successfully went through work furlough and transitional housing after 5 years incarcerated, and she shared her experiences with us. In prison, she learned quilling...the manipulation of thin, tiny pieces of paper into artwork. Her gorgeous talent is now on display at Laniakea's art hall, and Dudoit is sharing her artistic skills with YWCA women.

Aloha,
Linda Coble, Scribe